REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FOR SPRING POWERED CABLE REEL

Introduction

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) invites potential offerors to submit a response to this RFI to find interested and qualified sources and planning information for the design, development, and manufacture of a spring powered cable reel with locking mechanism. The reel will be used on the Ground Support Equipment for the Constellation Program to retract an electrical umbilical cable bundle immediately after T-0.

Approximately 2 will be needed over the next year.

The Government will provide in its Request for Proposal a performance specification with Government Furnished Drawings. It will be incumbent upon each offeror to determine the drawings suitability for use.

The intent of this Request for Information (RFI) is to obtain information from industry to assist Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in its acquisition development. NASA reserves the right to share all information received in response to this RFI throughout NASA and to use all information submitted in response to this RFI in NASA's formulation of a solicitation seeking competitive proposals. However, any competition sensitive data should be clearly marked. Although information contained herein represents current program content and acquisition planning, it is subject to change. Response to this RFI is requested within the context of the general approach described in the following paragraphs.

Overall Description

The reel should use a constant force spring to retract a 0.25 inch steel cable and clevis. The extended cable shall provide a constant pull force of 20 lbs. The steel cable shall have a maximum extension length of 47 feet. At maximum extension, the reel, cable and clevis shall be able to withstand a pull force of 600 lbs.

After the first 2 feet of the cable has retracted, a passive breaking mechanism shall engage which will prevent any payout of the cable during the remaining cable retraction.

The reel shall be encased in a purged housing that allows the reel to be easily mounted vertically or horizontally. It will be used in an outdoor environment. It should be able to function with the cable extended at angles from 0° to 40° with horizontal set at zero. The reel housing shall be designed to withstand a 4 psi (blast or acoustic) launch environment.

Specific Information Solicited

Responders to this RFI are encouraged to comment on any of the foregoing and to express their interest in this proposed acquisition by submitting the following information:

1. Organization name, address, describe principle activity, primary point of contact and business size.

2. Cost – Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) for each prototype, each production unit and estimated total program cost.

3. Lead Times – Describe lead times required for prototypes and productions units.

4. Reliability – Provide reliability data for similar type of devices.

5. Experience – Describe your experience in developing and producing spring powered reels.

Response Instructions

The requested responses are for information and planning purposes only. NASA does not intend to post information or questions received to any website or public access location. NASA does not plan to respond to the individual responses. Feedback to this RFI may be utilized in formulating the Government's acquisition strategy and documents.

All responses should be provided in MS Word document format, both hard and electronic media. Font should be Times New Roman, size 12. Responses should not exceed 15 pages and should reference "RFI-KSC-SPCR." Please submit responses no later than June 30, 2008 to NASA/KSC Procurement Office, ATTN: OP-ES/Erik Whitehill, Contracting Officer, Kennedy Space Flight Center, FL 32899, EMAIL erik.c.whitehill@nasa.gov.

This preliminary information is being made available for planning purposes only, subject to FAR Clause 52.215-3, entitled "Solicitation for Information and Planning Purposes". It does not constitute a Request for Proposal, Invitation for Bid, or Request for Quotation, and it is not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to enter into a contract. Moreover, the Government will not pay for the information submitted in response to this RFI, nor will the Government reimburse an offeror for costs incurred to prepare responses to this RFI.

No solicitation exists at this time; therefore, do not request a copy of the solicitation. If a solicitation is released it will be synopsized in the FedBizOpps and on the NASA

Acquisition Internet Services (NAIS). Firms that respond to this RFI will be placed on any future mailing list for this acquisition. However, it is the potential offeror's responsibility to monitor these sites for the release of any solicitation or synopsis.